

In the Specification

Please amend the second paragraph on page 4 to read as follows:

The present invention is a bracket for mounting a gutter cover, wherein the gutter cover is facilely retrofitted to an existing rain gutter as well as a new rain gutter. The invention is particularly suited for use with an aluminum sheet metal rain guttering. The trough of guttering has a main channel with a curvilinear front wall and a rear wall that is usually substantially straight. The gutter cover bracket is comprised of a lifting strut, at least one bracing strut, a stabilizing strut, and a junction where the struts converge. The lifting strut has a A distal end of the lifting strut that can provides support to a leading hooked frontal edge of the gutter cover, and a proximal end that intersects the junction of the bracket. The bracing strut has a lower end, which can rests on a bottom portion of the gutter trough, and an upper end that intersects the junction of the bracket, therein providing support to the junction. The bracing strut is of sufficient length and shape so that support is can be achieved without blocking the main channel of the rain gutter. Several variations create the desired support for the cover. An angled bracing strut is angled so that the lower end rests adjacent to the front wall of the main channel. A linear bracing strut rests adjacent to the rear wall of the channel. A curvilinear bracing strut follows a contour of the front wall of the gutter trough. The bracket can be comprised of more than one bracing strut, for instance the bracket can have an angled bracing strut and a curvilinear bracing. The stabilizing strut has a hooked end that can distally interlocks with a hooked edge of a

front ~~front~~ rim of a gutter trough and a medial end, ~~which~~ that intersects with the junction of the bracket. The stabilizing strut and the bracing strut have lengths such that the junction will be positioned in the gutter substantially medial to the trough and proximal to the front rim of the gutter when the bracket is mounted. To enhance the strength of the stabilizing strut and the lifting strut, there can additionally be at least one connecting element, where the connecting element spans from the stabilizing strut to the lifting strut.

Please amend the next to last paragraph on page 12 to read as follows:

Other embodiments of the bracket **10** having two bracing struts are illustrated in Fig. 14 and Fig.15. A bracket having an angled strut **16a** and a linear strut **16b** is shown in Fig. 14. A bracket **10** having a curvilinear strut **16c** and a linear strut **16b** is shown in Fig. 15. A common feature in all of the illustrated embodiments is that the stabilizing strut and the bracing strut have lengths such that the junction will be positioned in the gutter substantially medial to the trough and proximal to the front rim of the gutter when the bracket is mounted.